United Nations A/57/521

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 November 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 77

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Andrej **Droba** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 21st to 23rd meetings, on 11, 12 and 15 November 2002 (see A/C.4/57/SR.21-23). The general debate on the item was held at the 21st and 22nd meetings (see A/C.4/57/SR.21 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 56/59 (A/57/314);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 56/60 (A/57/315);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 56/61 (A/57/316);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 56/62 (A/57/317);

02-70201 (E) 221102

(e) Report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 56/63 (A/57/318);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the thirty-fourth report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/57/207);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the periodic report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/57/421);

(h) Letter dated 12 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/57/297-S/2002/920);

(i) Letter dated 27 September 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué adopted at the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (A/57/458-S/2002/1125).

4. At the 21st meeting, on 11 November, the representative of Sri Lanka, in his capacity as Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, introduced the report of that Committee contained in document A/57/207 (see A/C.4/57/SR.21).

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations made a statement (see A/C.4/57/SR.21).

6. At the 23rd meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Israel made a statement (see A/C.4/57/SR.23).

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations made a further statement (see A/C.4/57/SR.23).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.16

8. At the 23rd meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Namibia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine, subsequently joined by Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories" (A/C.4/57/L.16).

9. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.16 by a recorded vote of 82 to 5, with 62 abstentions (see para. 24, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia.

11. At the same meeting, statements in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.16 were made by the representatives of Australia, Canada and Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Iceland and Norway) (see A/C.4/57/SR.23).

B. Draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.17

12. At the 23rd meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine, subsequently joined by Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied

Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories" (A/C.4/57/L.17). In introducing the draft resolution, he orally revised the title by inserting the word "East" before the word "Jerusalem".

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.17, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 145 to 5, with 2 abstentions (see para. 24, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu.

14. At the same meeting, statements in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.17 were made by the representatives of Australia, Canada and Switzerland (see A/C.4/57/SR.23).

C. Draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.18

15. At the 23rd meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine, subsequently joined by Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, introduced

a draft resolution entitled "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan" (A/C.4/57/L.18). In introducing the draft resolution, he orally revised the title by inserting the word "East" before the word "Jerusalem".

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.18, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 145 to 6, with 1 abstention (see para. 24, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Tuvalu, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Papua New Guinea.

17. At the same meeting, the representative of Australia made a statement in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.18 (see A/C.4/57/SR.23).

D. Draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1

18. At the 23rd meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine, subsequently joined by Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, introduced

a draft resolution entitled "Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem" (A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1). In introducing the draft resolution, he orally revised it by inserting the word "East" before the word "Jerusalem" in the title and in operative paragraph 1.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 141 to 5, with 2 abstentions (see para. 24, draft resolution IV). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu.

20. At the same meeting, statements in explanation of vote on draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.19/Rev.1 were made by the representatives of Australia, Canada and Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Iceland and Norway) (see A/C.4/57/SR.23).

E. Draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.20

21. At the 23rd meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine, subsequently joined by Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The occupied Syrian Golan" (A/C.4/57/L.20).

22. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.20 by a recorded vote of 144 to 1, with 7 abstentions (see para. 24, draft resolution V). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Honduras, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, United States of America.

23. At the same meeting, after the vote on the draft resolution, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement (see A/C.4/57/SR.23).

III. Recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

24. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] as well as international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[2] and the International Covenants on Human Rights,[3]

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 2443 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 56/59 of 10 December 2001, and the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Convinced that occupation itself represents a gross and grave violation of human rights,

Gravely concerned about the continuation of the tragic events that have occurred since 28 September 2000, including the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, resulting in thousands of deaths and injuries,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[4] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[5]

Recalling the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[6] and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Expressing the hope that the Israeli occupation will be brought to an early end and that therefore the violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people will cease,

---

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[2] Resolution 217 A (III).
[3] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[4] A/57/207 and A/57/421.
[5] A/57/314-318.
[6] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;

2. *Reiterates its demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, cooperate with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate;

3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the reports of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;

4. *Expresses grave concern* about the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of Israeli practices and measures, and especially condemns the excessive and indiscriminate use of force since 28 September 2000, which has resulted in almost two thousand Palestinian deaths and tens of thousands of injuries;

5. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[1] and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

6. *Also requests* the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Further requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment of prisoners and detainees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(b) To continue to make available such additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(c) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above;

(d) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories".

Draft resolution II
Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[7] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[8]

Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Noting the convening of the meeting of experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[9] at Geneva from 27 to 29 October 1998, at the initiative of the Government of Switzerland in its capacity as the depositary of the Convention, concerning general problems of application of the Convention in general and, in particular, in occupied territories,

Noting also the convening for the first time, on 15 July 1999, of a Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, as recommended by the General Assembly in its resolution ES-10/6 of 9 February 1999, on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to ensure respect therefor in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions,[10] and aware of the statement adopted by the Conference,

Welcoming the reconvening of the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention at Geneva on 5 December 2001, stressing the importance of the Declaration adopted by the Conference, and underlining the need for the parties to follow up on the implementation of the Declaration,

Welcoming and encouraging the initiatives by States parties to the Convention, both individually and collectively, according to article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions,[10] aimed at ensuring respect for the Convention,

---

[7] A/57/207 and A/57/421.

[8] A/57/314-318.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[10] Ibid., Nos. 970-973.

Stressing that Israel, the occupying Power, should comply strictly with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[9] is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* all High Contracting Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions,[10] to continue to exert all efforts to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

4. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions adopted at its tenth emergency special session with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[11] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements of 13 September 1993[12] and the subsequent implementation agreements between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Aware that Israeli settlement activities have involved, inter alia, the transfer of nationals of the occupying Power into the occupied territories, the confiscation of

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[12] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

land, the exploitation of natural resources and other illegal actions against the Palestinian civilian population,

Bearing in mind the detrimental impact of Israeli settlement policies, decisions and activities on efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East,

Expressing grave concern about the continuation by Israel of settlement activities in violation of international humanitarian law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the agreements reached between the parties, including the ongoing construction of the settlements in Jabal Abu-Ghneim and Ras Al-Amud in and around Occupied East Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned about the dangerous situation resulting from actions taken by the illegal armed Israeli settlers in the occupied territory, as illustrated in the recent period and earlier by the massacre of Palestinian worshippers by an illegal Israeli settler in Al-Khalil on 25 February 1994, and during the past year,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[13]

1. *Reaffirms* that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[11] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49;

3. *Reiterates its demand* for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, including the construction of the settlement in Jabal Abu-Ghneim;

4. *Stresses* the need for full implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994, in which, among other things, the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

5. *Reiterates its calls* for the prevention of all acts of violence by Israeli settlers, particularly in the light of recent developments;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

---

[13] A/57/316.

Draft resolution IV
Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including those adopted at its tenth emergency special session, and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories[14] and the reports of the Secretary-General,[15]

Taking note of the report of the Human Rights Inquiry Commission established by the Commission on Human Rights[16] and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967,[17]

Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[18] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Reaffirming further the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties,

Stressing the need for full compliance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreements reached within the context of the Middle East peace process,

Concerned about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including the use of collective punishment, reoccupation and closure of areas, confiscation of land, establishment and expansion of settlements, destruction of property and all other actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned by the tragic events that have occurred since 28 September 2000 and that have led to thousands of deaths and injuries, mostly among Palestinian civilians,

---

[14] A/57/207 and A/57/421.
[15] A/57/314-318.
[16] E/CN.4/2001/121.
[17] E/CN.4/2002/32.
[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Expressing deep concern about the destruction caused by the Israeli occupying forces, including the destruction of homes and properties, of religious, cultural and historical sites, of vital infrastructure and institutions of the Palestinian Authority, and of agricultural land throughout Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps,

Also expressing deep concern about the Israeli policy of closure and the severe restrictions, including curfews, imposed on the movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian personnel and goods, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent impact on the socio-economic situation of the Palestinian people, which has resulted in a dire humanitarian crisis,

Expressing concern that thousands of Palestinians continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres, and also expressing concern about their ill-treatment and harassment and reports of torture,

Convinced of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting Palestinian civilians and to help the parties to implement agreements reached, and, in this regard, recalls the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron,

Stressing the necessity for the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions,

1. *Determines* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[18] and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949[18] and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation of the Convention, including extrajudiciary executions;

3. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by Israeli forces against Palestinian civilians, resulting in extensive loss of life, vast numbers of injuries and massive destruction;

4. *Condemns* the recent events that have occurred in the Jenin refugee camp, including the loss of life, injury, destruction and displacement inflicted on many of its civilian inhabitants;

5. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people;

6. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial integrity of all the Occupied Palestinian Territory and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including the removal of restrictions on movement into and from East Jerusalem, and the freedom of movement to and from the outside world;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution V
The occupied Syrian Golan

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories,[19]

Deeply concerned that the Syrian Golan, occupied since 1967, has been under continued Israeli military occupation,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also its previous relevant resolutions, the last of which was resolution 56/63 of 10 December 2001,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General submitted in pursuance of resolution 56/63,[20]

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions in which, inter alia, it called upon Israel to put an end to its occupation of the Arab territories,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision of 14 December 1981 taken by Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[21] to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 237 (1967) of 14 June 1967,

Welcoming the convening in Madrid of the Peace Conference on the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 aimed at the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace, and expressing grave concern about the stalling of the peace process on all tracks,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions on the occupied Syrian Golan, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and in particular to desist from the establishment of settlements;

---

[19] A/57/207 and A/57/421.

[20] A/57/318.

[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

3. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[21] and have no legal effect;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and from taking repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

5. *Deplores* the violations by Israel of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

6. *Calls once again upon* Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

United Nations A/57/522

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 October 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 78

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Andrej **Droba** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 12th to 15th meetings, on 18, 21, 22 and 24 October 2002 (see A/C.4/57/SR.12-15).

3. At the 12th meeting, on 18 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations made a statement (see A/C.4/57/SR.12), after which the Committee moved into closed session to hold an interactive dialogue with the Under-Secretary-General.

4. At the 15th meeting, on 24 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations made a further statement (see A/C.4/57/SR.15).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.8•

5. At the 15th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Ukraine, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bulgaria, Canada, China, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the

02-66893 (E) 051102

Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers" (A/C.4/57/L.8).

6. At the same meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee that no programme budget implications would be entailed by the adoption of the draft resolution.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.8 without a vote (see para. 9).

8. The Committee will continue its consideration of this item in the latter part of the fifty-seventh session.

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

9. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that peacekeeping continues to be among the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing the invaluable contribution to the promotion of peace and security of all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and recalling in this regard the awarding of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to United Nations peacekeeping forces,

Recognizing also the sacrifice of all the men and women who lost their lives in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and recalling in this regard the establishment by the Security Council of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal,

Bearing in mind that the Security Council, by its resolution 50 (1948) of 29 May 1948, authorized the establishment of the first United Nations peacekeeping operation, and recognizing that 2003 marks the fifty-fifth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping,

Recalling its resolution 56/225 B of 22 May 2002, in which, inter alia, it endorsed the proposals, recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations,[1] including its recommendation that 29 May be designated the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers,

1. *Decides* to designate 29 May as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, to be observed annually to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for

[1] A/56/863.

their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage, and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace;

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers in an appropriate manner;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

United Nations A/57/523

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 November 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 79

Questions relating to information

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Andrej **Droba** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Questions relating to information" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 16th to 18th meetings, from 29 to 31 October 2002 (see A/C.4/57/SR.16-18).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Information on its twenty-fourth session;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/157);

(c) Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted on 19 September 2002 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 (A/57/444).

4. At the 16th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of Egypt, in his capacity as Rapporteur of the Committee on Information, introduced the report of that Committee (see A/C.4/57/SR.16).

5. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information made a statement (see A/C.4/57/SR.16).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/57/21).

02-67530 (E) 121102

6. At the 18th meeting, on 31 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information made a further statement (see A/C.4/57/SR.18).

II. Consideration of proposals contained in the report of the Committee on Information

A. Draft resolutions

7. At its 18th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee adopted, without a vote, draft resolutions A and B contained in paragraph 70 of the report of the Committee on Information[1] (see para. 9).

B. Draft decision

8. At its 18th meeting, on 31 October, the Committee adopted, without a vote, the draft decision contained in paragraph 70 of the report of the Committee on Information[1] (see para. 10).

III. Recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

9. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Questions relating to information

A
Information in the service of humanity

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information,[2]

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information,[3]

Urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21* (A/57/21).
[3] A/57/157.

disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources and their free access to information, and recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process"[9]:

(a) To cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

(b) To ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(c) To provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) To enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communication technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) To aim at, in addition to bilateral cooperation, providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communication technology available on the open market;

(f) To provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication[4] of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media.

B
United Nations public information policies and activities

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its decision to consolidate the role of the Committee on Information as its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations to it relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat,

Concurring with the view of the Secretary-General that the fundamental premise underlying the reorientation efforts of the Department of Public Information remains General Assembly resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, establishing the Department of Public Information, which states in paragraph 2 of annex I to the resolution that the activities of the Department should be so organized and directed as to promote to the greatest possible extent an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among the peoples of the world,

Concurring also with the view of the Secretary-General that the contents of public information and communications should be placed at the heart of the strategic management of the United Nations and that a culture of communications should permeate all levels of the Organization, as a means of fully informing the peoples of the world of the aims and activities of the United Nations, in accordance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in order to create broad-based global support for the United Nations,

Stressing that the primary mission of the Department of Public Information is to provide, through its outreach activities, accurate, impartial, comprehensive and timely information to the public on the tasks and responsibilities of the United Nations in order to strengthen international support for the activities of the Organization with the greatest transparency,

Reaffirming that the Department of Public Information must prioritize its work programme while respecting existing mandates and in line with rule 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, to focus its message and concentrate its efforts better and, as a function of performance management, to match its programmes with the needs of its target audiences, on the basis of improved feedback and evaluation mechanisms,

Stating that the comprehensive review of the work of the Department of Public Information, being prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, and the embracing of a strategic direction which the Department has to consider as a result, provides an opportunity to take further steps to rationalize in order to maintain, eliminate, enhance or reduce its activities and output, to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness, to maximize the use of its

[4] See *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session, Belgrade, 23 September to 28 October 1980*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, sect. III.4, resolution 4/21.

resources and, finally, to establish a departmental structure to accomplish these goals,

Expressing its concern that the gap in the information and communication technologies between the developed and the developing countries has continued to widen and that vast segments of the population in developing countries are not benefiting from the present information and technology revolution, and, in this regard, underlining the necessity of rectifying the imbalances of the global information and technology revolution in order to make it more just, equitable and effective,

Recognizing that developments in the information and communication technology revolution open vast new opportunities for economic growth and social development and can play an important role in the eradication of poverty in developing countries, and, at the same time, emphasizing that it also poses challenges and risks and could lead to the further widening of disparities between and within countries,

Stating that the present developments and rapid changes in the field of information and communication technology have a tremendous impact on the functioning of the United Nations and the Department of Public Information in particular, which may necessitate suitable adjustments in the manner in which the mandate of the Department is implemented, as a key element in the reform and revitalization of the United Nations in a new information age,

Recognizing that the mix of means used by the Department of Public Information to disseminate its message remains a key area for review and, in this regard, that the Department should rely on reaching the public through existing external media to a greater degree than at present,

Recalling its resolution 56/262 of 15 February 2002 on multilingualism, and emphasizing the importance of making appropriate use of the official languages of the United Nations in the activities of the Department of Public Information, aiming to eliminate the disparity between the use of English and the other five official languages,

Welcoming Azerbaijan and Monaco to membership in the Committee on Information,

I. Introduction

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 13 (I) of 13 February 1946, in which it established the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions related to the activities of the Department;

2. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in respect of the public information policies and activities of the United Nations, to continue to implement fully the recommendations contained in paragraph 2 of its resolution 48/44 B of 10 December 1993 and other mandates as established by the General Assembly;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 as a guideline that sets out the overall orientation of the public information programme for the Organization's goals through effective communication;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to conduct and submit a comprehensive review on the management and operations of the Department of Public Information to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, and encourages the Secretary-General to present wide-ranging innovative proposals for the Department that should take into account the issue raised in the current resolution;

5. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, following the priorities laid down by the General Assembly and using the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] as its guide, to pay particular attention to such major issues as eradication of poverty, conflict prevention, sustainable development, human rights, the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic, the battle against international terrorism and the needs of the African continent;

6. *Concurs* with the Secretary-General on the need to enhance the technological infrastructure of the Department of Public Information to widen its outreach and to improve the United Nations web site;

7. *Acknowledges* the important work carried out by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its collaboration with news agencies and broadcasting organizations in developing countries in disseminating information on priority issues;

II. General activities of the Department of Public Information

8. *Notes* the efforts made by the Department of Public Information, in the context of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications[6] and the ongoing comprehensive review, to articulate to Member States the challenges it faces in improving its efficiency and productivity, and encourages the Secretary-General to continue the reorientation exercise, including wide-ranging and possibly new innovative proposals, taking into account broad principles and directions contained in the present resolution, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session;

9. *Reaffirms* that the Department of Public Information is the focal point for information policies of the United Nations and the primary news centre for information about the United Nations and its activities and those of the Secretary-General, and encourages a closer integration of functions between the Department and those offices providing spokesman services for the Secretary-General;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the reorientation process, to continue to exert all efforts to ensure that publications and other information services of the Secretariat, including the United Nations web site and the United Nations News Service, contain comprehensive, objective and equitable information about the issues before the Organization and that they maintain editorial independence, impartiality, accuracy and full consistency with resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly;

---

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] A/AC.198/2002/2.

11. *Notes* the submission by the Secretary-General of his report on the reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications,[6] and welcomes the progress achieved since the commencement of the reorientation exercise in enhancing the performance and effectiveness of the Department of Public Information in accordance with the mandates established by the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information;

12. *Welcomes* the movement of the Department of Public Information towards a new "evaluation culture" of increased performance management, based on, inter alia, an annual programme impact review, as well as feedback from Member States, where appropriate;

13. *Welcomes also* the intention of the Department of Public Information to examine further areas of duplication and fragmentation of functions in the structure of the Department as well as opportunities for greater coordination within the Secretariat as a whole and within the United Nations system in order to avoid an overlapping of efforts in the implementation of its mandates and activities;

14. *Notes* the intention of the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session in accordance with resolution 56/253, and recognizes that the comprehensive review of the Department is intended to facilitate the process of reorientation;

15. *Requests* the Committee on Information to examine thoroughly the comprehensive review once it has been finalized and to submit its recommendations thereon to the General Assembly, and stresses in this context the importance of respecting the principal competence of the Committee to undertake the examination and submit its recommendations prior to the consideration of the review by any other body;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure, to the extent possible, that recommendations relating to the programme of work of the Department of Public Information originate and are considered in the Committee on Information;

17. *Takes note* of the proposed mission statement of the Department of Public Information,[7] and emphasizes the importance, when implementing the mandates established by the General Assembly, of direct outreach activities to Member States and the public and the use of such intermediaries as the media, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, while maintaining the information programmes and activities mandated by the General Assembly until any alternative future decision has been taken on this matter upon the recommendation of the Committee on Information, to continue the study and consideration of certain organizational changes;

19. *Urges* the Department of Public Information to continue to exhibit transparency to the greatest extent possible, so as to increase awareness of the impact of its programmes and activities;

20. *Emphasizes* that, through its reorientation, the Department of Public Information should maintain and improve its activities in the areas of special interest

[7] Ibid., para. 19.

to developing countries and, where appropriate, other countries with special needs, including countries in transition, and that such reorientation contributes to bridging the existing gap between the developing and the developed countries in the crucial field of public information and communications;

21. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue consultations with the Committee on Information before taking any decision on the possible changing of its title;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to strengthen the coordination between the Department of Public Information and other departments of the Secretariat, and emphasizes that public information capacities and activities in other departments should function under the guidance of the Department of Public Information;

23. *Welcomes* the initiatives that have been taken by the Department of Public Information to strengthen the public information system of the United Nations, and, in this regard, stresses the importance of a coherent and results-oriented approach being taken by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the programmes and funds of the United Nations system involved in public information activities and the provision of resources for their implementation, and that feedback from Member States on the relevance and effectiveness of its programme delivery should be taken into account;

24. *Welcomes also* the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Joint United Nations Information Committee in 2001,[8] commends the Department of Public Information on its active and constructive participation in the Committee, particularly its efforts in promoting inter-agency coordination in the field of public information, encourages the Department to play a key role in the newly established United Nations Communications Group, takes note of the efforts being undertaken by the Group to develop further several key initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at successive sessions on the activities of the Group;

25. *Recognizes* the need for the Department of Public Information to increase its outreach activities in all regions, and reiterates the need to include, in the reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications, an analysis of the present reach and scope of the Department's activities, identifying the widest possible spectrum of audiences and geographical areas that are not covered adequately and may require special attention, including the appropriate means of communication, and bearing in mind local language requirements;

26. *Appreciates* the continued efforts of the Department of Public Information in issuing daily press releases, and requests the Department to continue providing this invaluable service to both Member States and representatives of the media, while considering possible means of improving their production process and streamlining their format, structure and length, keeping in mind the views of Member States and the fact that other departments may be providing similar or overlapping services in this regard;

[8] A/AC.198/2002/7.

III. Multilingualism and public information

27. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring the full, equitable treatment of all the official languages of the United Nations in all activities of the Department of Public Information, and stresses the importance of fully implementing its resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997, in section C of which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the texts of all new public documents in all six official languages, and information materials of the United Nations are made available daily through the United Nations web site and are accessible to Member States without delay;

28. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Department of Public Information has appropriate staffing capacity in all official languages of the United Nations to undertake all its activities;

29. *Reminds* the Secretary-General of the need to include in future programme budget proposals for the Department of Public Information the importance of using all six official languages in its activities;

IV. Promotional campaigns

30. *Recognizes* that promotional campaigns aimed at supporting special sessions and international conferences of the United Nations are part of the core responsibility of the Department of Public Information, and welcomes the efforts of the Department to examine creative ways by which it can organize and implement these campaigns in partnership with the substantive departments concerned;

31. *Recognizes also* the need for enhanced publicity through a targeted strategy to be developed by the Department of Public Information on the forthcoming special sessions, international conferences and promotional campaigns of the United Nations pertaining to global issues, using the United Nations Millennium Declaration as its guide;

32. *Supports* the efforts of the Department of Public Information, while ensuring respect for the priorities established by the General Assembly, to focus its promotional campaigns also on the major issues identified by the Secretary-General, referred to in paragraph 5 of the present resolution;

33. *Appreciates* the work of the Department of Public Information in promoting, through its campaigns, issues of importance to the international community, such as sustainable development, children, HIV/AIDS and decolonization, as well as the dialogue among civilizations and the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and encourages the Department, in cooperation with the countries concerned and with the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate measures to enhance world public awareness of these and other important global issues;

34. *Encourages* the Department of Public Information to continue to work within the United Nations Communications Group to coordinate the implementation of communication strategies with the heads of information of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system;

V. Bridging the digital divide

35. *Welcomes* the decision, endorsed in its resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, to convene the World Summit on the Information Society at Geneva in December 2003 and at Tunis in December 2005;

36. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the establishment of the United Nations Information Technology Service, the Health InterNetwork and the Information and Communications Technology Task Force with a view to bridging the digital divide and as a response to the continuing gulf between developed and developing countries, welcomes the contribution of the Department of Public Information in publicizing the efforts of the Secretary-General to close the digital divide as a means of spurring economic growth and as a response to the continuing gulf between developed and developing countries, and, in this context, requests the Department further to enhance its role;

VI. United Nations information centres

37. *Stresses* that the United Nations information centres and information components should continue to play a significant role in disseminating information about the work of the Organization to the peoples of the world, including in the areas outlined in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and emphasizes that the information centres, as the "field voice" of the Department of Public Information, should promote public awareness and mobilize support for the work of the United Nations at the local level, bearing in mind that information in the local languages has the strongest impact on the local populations;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information the results of the ongoing review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat on this matter and information on the involvement of the Department in the United Nations houses initiative;

39. *Notes* the efforts by some United Nations information centres to develop their own web pages in local languages, and encourages the Department of Public Information to provide resources and technical facilities, in particular to those information centres whose web pages are not yet operational, to develop web pages in the respective local languages of their host countries, and encourages host Governments to respond to the needs of the information centres;

40. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Department of Public Information to restore additional resources to those United Nations information centres that have suffered reductions in staffing and other resources as a result of budget reduction exercises undertaken in the past several years;

41. *Recalls* the appeal made by the Secretary-General to the host Governments of United Nations information centres to facilitate the work of the centres in their countries by providing rent-free or rent-subsidized premises, while taking into account the economic condition of the host Governments and bearing in mind that such support should not be a substitute for the full allocation of financial resources for the information centres in the context of the programme budget of the United Nations;

42. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Information to review the allocation of both staff and financial resources to United Nations information centres with a view to possibly transferring resources from information centres in developed countries to those in developing countries;

43. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Integration of United Nations information centres with field offices of the United Nations Development Programme: continued implementation of the views of host Governments",[9] welcomes the consistent implementation by the Department of Public Information of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly with respect to the integration of United Nations information centres with the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme, and reaffirms that any proposal in this regard should be implemented only if feasible and on a case-by-case basis, while maintaining the operational and functional independence of the information centres, taking into account the views of the host countries to ensure that the information functions and the autonomy of the centres are not adversely affected, to meet the integration policy's stated objective of improving the provision of information by the United Nations;

44. *Notes* the possibility of creating regional information centre "hubs", especially but not exclusively in areas where linguistic commonalities facilitate regionalization, stresses the need for the Committee on Information to consider proposed guidelines and criteria relating to the advisability of implementing this option, and stresses also that, subject to the General Assembly endorsing the guidelines and criteria, such "hubs" should be created in a flexible manner, if feasible, on a case-by-case basis and only with the express approval of all host countries concerned;

VII. Role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping

45. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Department of Public Information in United Nations peacekeeping;[10]

46. *Commends* the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information for the establishment and functioning of the information components of peacekeeping operations and of political and peace-building missions of the United Nations, including its promotional efforts and other information support activities, and requests the Secretariat to continue to ensure the involvement of the Department from the planning stage of future operations through interdepartmental consultations and coordination with other departments of the Secretariat, in particular with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

47. *Requests* the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to strengthen its capacity to contribute significantly to the functioning of information components in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including through the development of a coherent information strategy with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations;

[9] A/AC.198/2002/4.
[10] A/AC.198/2002/5.

48. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the public information capacity of the Department of Public Information in the field of peacekeeping operations and its role in the selection process of spokespersons for United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions, and, in this regard, encourages the Department to second spokespersons who have the necessary skills to fulfil the tasks of the operations or missions and to consider views expressed, especially by host countries, when appropriate, in this regard;

VIII. Dag Hammarskjöld Library

49. *Notes* the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to make the Dag Hammarskjöld Library a virtual library with world outreach, making United Nations information and other acquired materials accessible electronically to a growing number of readers and users, and notes also the efforts of the Secretary-General to enrich on a multilingual basis the stock of books and journals in the Library, including publications on peace and security and development-related issues, to ensure that the Library continues to be a broadly accessible resource for information about the United Nations and its activities;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information the results of the overall review of the United Nations system library services, including the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, the libraries in the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, the libraries in the regional commissions, departmental libraries, libraries at United Nations information centres and depository libraries called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253;

51. *Notes* the training courses conducted by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library for the representatives of Member States and Secretariat staff on Cyberseek, web search, the Intranet, United Nations documentation, UN-I-QUE and the Official Document System of the United Nations;

IX. Traditional means of communication: radio, television and publications

52. *Stresses* that radio remains one of the most cost-effective and far-reaching traditional media available to the Department of Public Information and an important instrument in United Nations activities, such as development and peacekeeping;

53. *Recalls* paragraph 47 of its resolution 56/64 B, in which it decided, building upon the success of the pilot project on the development of an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations as well as the scope of its programme distribution and established partnerships, to expand the international radio broadcasting capacity of the United Nations in all six official languages;

54. *Appreciates* that the Department of Public Information, as stated in paragraph 32 of the report of the Secretary-General on the reorientation of United Nations activities in the field of public information and communications,[6] has managed to establish partnerships with over 265 radio stations to carry its broadcasts, with a potential to reach as many as 180 million listeners worldwide;

55. *Looks forward* to the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session on the implementation of the United Nations international radio broadcasting capacity, including information

that can be obtained from the local, national and regional radio partners about the estimated number of listeners reached and the cost-effectiveness of radio as an instrument in United Nations activities, so that the Committee may decide on the future of this capacity;

56. *Notes* the efforts being made by the Department of Public Information to disseminate programmes directly to broadcasting stations all over the world in the six official languages as well as in other languages, and, in this regard, stresses the need for impartiality and objectivity concerning information activities of the United Nations;

57. *Emphasizes* that United Nations Radio and Television should take full advantage of the technological infrastructure made available in recent years (including satellite platforms, information and communication technologies and the Internet), and requests the Secretary-General, as a part of the reorientation of the Department of Public Information, to consider a global strategy for broadcasting, taking into account existing technologies;

58. *Notes* the importance of the continued implementation by the Department of Public Information of the ongoing programme for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries and countries in transition as mandated by the General Assembly, and encourages the Department to consider how best to maximize the benefits derived from the programme by reviewing, inter alia, its duration and the number of its participants;

59. *Reiterates* that all publications of the Department of Public Information, in accordance with existing mandates, should fulfil an identifiable need, should not duplicate other publications of the United Nations system and should be produced in a cost-effective manner, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive review of the management and operations of the Department of Public Information the relevant results of the larger review of United Nations publications and information materials called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/253;

X. United Nations web site

60. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the continued development, maintenance and enrichment of the United Nations web site in the six official languages,[11] and notes the possible courses of action outlined therein;

61. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the efforts of the Department of Public Information in creating a high-quality, user-friendly and cost-effective web site, noting that this is especially noteworthy considering the scope of the undertaking, the budget constraints within the United Nations and the remarkably rapid expansion of the World Wide Web, reaffirms that the web site remains a very useful tool for media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, Member States and the general public, and welcomes the creation of the United Nations web site on terrorism;

62. *Notes with concern* that the multilingual development and enrichment of the United Nations web site has been slower than expected because of a lack of resources, among other factors;

[11] A/AC.198/2002/6.

63. *Notes* that content-providing offices have not, in general, been making their materials on the United Nations web site available in all six official languages;

64. *Stresses* the need for adopting a decision on the multilingual development, maintenance and enrichment of the United Nations web site, considering, inter alia, the possibility of organizational restructuring towards separate language units for each of the six official languages within the Department of Public Information, in order to achieve full parity among the official languages of the United Nations;

65. *Reaffirms its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure, until such a decision has been taken and implemented, to the extent possible and while maintaining an up-to-date and accurate web site, the equitable distribution of financial and human resources within the Department of Public Information allocated to the United Nations web site among all official languages on a continuous basis, and to make every possible effort to ensure that all materials contained on the web site that do not change and do not need regular maintenance are made available in all six official languages;

66. *Reaffirms* the need to achieve full parity among the six official languages on the United Nations web site, and, in this regard, takes note of the proposal of the Secretary-General, as contained in paragraph 33 of his report,[11] to translate into all official languages all English materials and databases posted on the United Nations web site by the respective content-providing offices of the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session on the most practical, efficient and cost-effective means of implementing this proposal;

67. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session proposals relating to the designation of a date by which all supporting arrangements would be in place for the implementation of this concept and after which parity would continue and relating to the exemption from translation of specific items on the web site;

68. *Stresses* the importance of access for the public to the United Nations treaty collection and United Nations parliamentary documentation;

69. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information, to continue to take full advantage of recent developments in information technology, including the Internet, in order to improve, in a cost-effective manner, the expeditious dissemination of information on the United Nations, in accordance with the priorities established by the General Assembly and taking into account the linguistic diversity of the Organization;

70. *Notes* that the High-Level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination has requested its Technical Adviser to prepare a preliminary study on the issue of one central Internet portal for the United Nations system, to be submitted to the High-Level Committee on Management at its meeting in September 2002, and requests the Department of Public Information, as the manager of the Organization's web site, to convey the considerations of the Committee on Information on this matter and to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session;

71. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the re-engineering of the Optical Disk System, now called the Official Document System of the United Nations,[12] and on the simultaneous availability of parliamentary documentation in electronic form in the six official languages on the United Nations web site;[13]

72. *Commends* the efforts of the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services of the Secretariat in ensuring that the required technological infrastructure is in place to accommodate the imminent linkage of the Official Document System to the United Nations web site, and commends also the Department of Public Information for addressing issues of content management relating to the System;

73. *Notes* that the integration of the Official Document System with the United Nations web site will significantly enhance the multilingual nature of the United Nations web site and will lead to efficiencies throughout all Secretariat departments through the elimination of duplicate formatting and posting of documents;

74. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session on the impact on the functioning of the Official Document System following implementation of the full multilingual support function and on the feasibility of providing free, public access to the System through a linkage with the United Nations web site, including options with a view to revising the current subscription policy established in General Assembly resolution 51/211 F of 15 September 1997, and expresses its intention to take a decision on the subscription policy during the main part of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

75. *Notes with interest* the electronic mail-based United Nations News Service distributed worldwide by e-mail by the Department of Public Information, appreciates the plan of the Department to provide this service in all official languages in 2002, and emphasizes that extra care needs to be taken to ensure that news-breaking stories and news alerts are accurate, impartial and free of any bias;

XI. Final remarks

76. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its twenty-fifth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution;

77. *Requests* the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

78. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

* * *

10. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

[12] A/56/120/Rev.1

[13] A/C.5/56/12.

Increase in the membership of the Committee on Information

The General Assembly decides to increase the number of members of the Committee on Information from ninety-eight to ninety-nine and to appoint Saudi Arabia as a member of the Committee.

United Nations A/57/524

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 November 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 80

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Andrej **Droba** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. At its 1st meeting, on 26 September 2002, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 19, 80, 81, 82 and 12, and 83. The general debate on the items was held at the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 30 September and on 1, 3 and 4 October (see A/C.4/57/SR.2, 3, 5 and 6). The Committee took action on item 80 at its 6th meeting, on 4 October (see A/C.4/57/SR.6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

02-65118 (E) 111102

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/57/23 (Part II), chap. VIII and A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII);[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/74).

II. Consideration of a draft resolution contained in document A/57/23 (Part III), chapter XIII, section A

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 30 September, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples made a statement in which he gave an account of the relevant activities of the Special Committee during 2002. He also drew attention to chapters VIII and XIII of the report of that Committee (see A/57/23 (Part II and Part III)), the latter containing, inter alia, the related draft resolution entitled "Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations" submitted by the Special Committee for the consideration of the Fourth Committee.

5. At its 6th meeting, on 4 October, the Fourth Committee adopted draft resolution I contained in chapter XIII, section A, of the report of the Special Committee (see A/57/23 (Part III)) by a recorded vote of 118 to none, with 4 abstentions (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

---

[1] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23).

[2] Subsequently, the delegation of the Sudan indicated that it had intended to vote in favour, and the delegations of Bangladesh, Latvia and Nigeria indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

France, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of the United Kingdom (see A/C.4/57/SR.6).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

7. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations[3] and the action taken by the Special Committee in respect of that information,

Having also examined the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

Recalling its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which it requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also its resolution 56/65 of 10 December 2001, in which it requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. *Reaffirms* that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-

[3] A/57/23 (Part II), chap. VIII. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23).

[4] A/57/74.

government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations, the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 *e* of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. *Requests* the Special Committee on the situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

United Nations A/57/525

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 October 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 81 and 19

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Andrej **Droba** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee). The Assembly also referred to the Fourth Committee, under the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples", chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.[1]

2. At its 1st meeting, on 26 September 2002, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 19, 80, 81, 82, 12 and 83. The general debate on the items was held at the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 30 September and on 1, 3 and 4 October (see A/C.4/57/SR.2, 3, 5 and 6). The Committee took action on item 81 at its 6th meeting, on 4 October (see A/C.4/57/SR.6).

3. For its consideration of the items, the Committee had before it the following documents:

[1] To be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23).

02-65124 (E) 121102

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/57/23 (Part II), chap. V and A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII);[1]

(b) Letter dated 20 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the communiqué of the thirty-third meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Fiji from 15 to 17 August 2002 (A/57/331).

4. Also at its 1st meeting, the Committee decided, without objection and in accordance with established practice, to consider, in conjunction with agenda item 81, chapter VI of the report of the Special Committee, relating to military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (see A/57/23 (Part II)).

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 30 September, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples made a statement in which he gave an account of the relevant activities of the Special Committee during 2002. He also drew attention to chapter V of the report of that Committee, as well as its relevant working papers (A/AC.109/2002/3, 4, 7-9, 12, 14, 15 and 17). The Rapporteur also gave an account of the Special Committee's consideration, pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly decision 56/420 of 10 December 2001, of the question of military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration, and drew attention to chapter VI of the report of the Special Committee.

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution contained in document A/57/23 (Part III), chapter XIII, section B

6. At its 6th meeting, on 4 October, the Committee adopted the draft resolution entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories" contained in document A/57/23 (Part III), chapter XIII, section B, by a recorded vote of 122 to 2, with 2 abstentions (see para. 9). The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan,

[2] Subsequently, the delegation of the Sudan indicated that it had intended to vote in favour, and the delegations of Bangladesh and Nigeria indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

B. Draft decision contained in document A/57/23 (Part III), chapter XIII, section H

7. At its 6th meeting, on 4 October, the Committee adopted the draft decision entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration", contained in document A/57/23 (Part III), chapter XIII, section H, by a recorded vote of 80 to 41, with 1 abstention (see para. 10). The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania,

[3] Subsequently, the delegation of the Sudan indicated that it had intended to vote in favour, the delegations of Bangladesh and Nigeria indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour, and the delegation of Bulgaria indicated that it had intended to vote against.

Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining:

Bulgaria.

8. After the adoption of the draft decision, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of Denmark, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union (see A/C.4/57/SR.6).

III. Recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

9. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories",

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[4]

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolutions 46/181 of 19 December 1991 and 55/146 of 8 December 2000,

Reaffirming the solemn obligation of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories under their administration and to protect the human and natural resources of those Territories against abuses,

Reaffirming also that any economic or other activity that has a negative impact on the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and on the exercise of their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter,

Reaffirming further that the natural resources are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location, size and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the need to promote the

[4] A/57/23 (Part II), chap. V. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23*.

economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the economy of each Territory,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Conscious also that foreign economic investment, when done in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes, could make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories and could also make a valid contribution to the exercise of their right to self-determination,

Concerned about any activities aimed at exploiting the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to the detriment of the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

1. *Reaffirms* the right of peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as their right to the enjoyment of their natural resources and their right to dispose of those resources in their best interest;

2. *Affirms* the value of foreign economic investment undertaken in collaboration with the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordance with their wishes in order to make a valid contribution to the socio-economic development of the Territories;

3. *Reaffirms* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and reaffirms the legitimate rights of their peoples over their natural resources;

4. *Reaffirms its concern* about any activities aimed at the exploitation of the natural resources that are the heritage of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, including the indigenous populations, in the Caribbean, the Pacific and other regions, and of their human resources, to the detriment of their interests, and in such a way as to deprive them of their right to dispose of those resources;

5. *Affirms* the need to avoid any economic and other activities which adversely affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

6. *Calls once again upon* all Governments that have not yet done so to take, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, legislative, administrative or other measures in respect of their nationals and the bodies corporate under their jurisdiction that own and operate enterprises in the Non-Self-Governing Territories that are detrimental to the interests of the inhabitants of those Territories, in order to put an end to such enterprises;

7. *Reiterates* that the damaging exploitation and plundering of the marine and other natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, is a threat to the integrity and prosperity of those Territories;

8. *Invites* all Governments and organizations of the United Nations system to take all possible measures to ensure that the permanent sovereignty of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories over their natural resources is fully respected and safeguarded in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

9. *Urges* the administering Powers concerned to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources, and requests the administering Powers to take all necessary steps to protect the property rights of the peoples of those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

10. *Calls upon* the administering Powers concerned to ensure that no discriminatory working conditions prevail in the Territories under their administration and to promote in each Territory a fair system of wages applicable to all the inhabitants without any discrimination;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of any activity that affects the exercise of the right of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination in conformity with the Charter and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV);

12. *Appeals* to the mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts to promote the economic well-being of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Decides* to follow the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories so as to ensure that all economic activities in those Territories are aimed at strengthening and diversifying their economies in the interest of their peoples, including the indigenous populations, and at promoting the economic and financial viability of those Territories;

14. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine this question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

* * *

10. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration

1. The General Assembly, having considered the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to an item on the agenda of the Special Committee entitled "Military

activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration"[5] and recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to military activities in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, reaffirms its strong conviction that military bases and installations in the Territories concerned could constitute an obstacle to the exercise by the people of those Territories of their right to self-determination, and reiterates its strong views that existing bases and installations, which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, should be withdrawn.

2. Aware of the presence of such bases and installations in some of those Territories, the General Assembly urges the administering Powers concerned to continue to take all necessary measures not to involve those Territories in any offensive acts or interference against other States.

3. The General Assembly reiterates its concern that military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration might run counter to the rights and interests of the colonial peoples concerned, especially their right to self-determination and independence. The Assembly once again calls upon the administering Powers concerned to terminate such activities and to eliminate such military bases in compliance with its relevant resolutions. Alternative sources of livelihood for the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be provided.

4. The General Assembly reiterates that the colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories and areas adjacent thereto should not be used for nuclear testing, dumping of nuclear wastes or deployment of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

5. The General Assembly deplores the continued alienation of land in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the small island Territories of the Pacific and Caribbean regions, for military installations. The large-scale utilization of the local resources for this purpose could adversely affect the economic development of the Territories concerned.

6. The General Assembly takes note of the decision of some of the administering Powers to close or downsize some of those military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

7. The General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform world public opinion of those military activities and arrangements in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. The General Assembly requests the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to continue to examine this question and report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

---

[5] A/57/23 (Part II), chap. VI. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23*.

United Nations A/57/526

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 October 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 82 and 12

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Andrej **Droba** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee). The Assembly also referred to the Fourth Committee, under the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", chapter VII, section D, of the report of the Economic and Social Council,[1] relating to the item.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 26 September 2002, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 19, 80, 81, 82 and 12, and 83. The general debate on the items was held at the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 30 September and on 1, 3 and 4 October (see A/C.4/57/SR.2, 3, 5 and 6). The Committee took action on items 82 and 12 at its 6th meeting, on 4 October (see A/C.4/57/SR.6).

[1] A/57/3, to be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/57/3/Rev.1).

02-65155 (E) 111102

3. For its consideration of the items, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/57/23 (Part II), chap. VII and A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII);[2]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/73);

(c) Letter dated 20 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the twenty-third meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Fiji from 15 to 17 August 2002 (A/57/331).

II. Consideration of a draft resolution contained in document A/57/23 (Part III), chapter XIII, section C

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 30 September, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples made a statement in which he gave an account of the relevant activities of the Special Committee during 2002. He also drew attention to chapters VII and XIII of the report of that Committee (see A/57/23 (Part II and Part III)), the latter containing, inter alia, the related draft resolution, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations", submitted by the Special Committee for the consideration of the Fourth Committee.

5. At its 6th meeting, on 4 October, the Fourth Committee adopted draft resolution III contained in chapter XIII, section C, of the report of the Special Committee (see A/57/23 (Part III)) by a recorded vote of 81 to none, with 44 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab

[2] To be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23).

[3] Subsequently, the delegation of the Sudan indicated that it had intended to vote in favour, and the delegations of Bangladesh and Nigeria indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of Denmark, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union (see A/C.4/57/SR.6).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

7. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having also considered the report of the Secretary-General on the item,[4]

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the item,[5]

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/28 of 26 July 2001,

[4] A/57/73.

[5] A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23*.

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in resolution 1514 (XV),

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Also welcoming the current participation in the capacity of observers of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in

the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/67 of 10 December 2001 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

4. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

6. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

7. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and drought, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Welcomes* the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

14. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on specific Territories, so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

15. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

17. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this question, and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for the coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

United Nations A/57/527

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 October 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 83

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Andrej **Droba** (Slovakia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. At its 1st meeting, on 26 September 2002, the Fourth Committee decided to hold a general debate covering agenda items 19, 80, 81, 82, and 12, and 83. The general debate on the items was held at the 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 30 September and on 1, 3 and 4 October (see A/C.4/57/SR.2, 3, 5 and 6). The Committee took action on item 83 at its 6th meeting, on 4 October (see A/C.4/57/SR.6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/57/90 and Add.1);

(b) Letter dated 20 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the thirty-third meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Fiji from 15 to 17 August 2002 (A/57/331).

02-65167 (E) 071102

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.3

4. At the 4th meeting, on 2 October, the Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution entitled "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories" (A/C.4/57/L.3), sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania, subsequently joined by Nigeria.

5. At its 6th meeting, on 4 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/57/L.3 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

6. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/68 of 10 December 2001,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,[1] prepared pursuant to its resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954,

Conscious of the importance of promoting the educational advancement of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Strongly convinced that the continuation and expansion of offers of scholarships is essential in order to meet the increasing need of students from Non-Self-Governing Territories for educational and training assistance, and considering that students in those Territories should be encouraged to avail themselves of such offers,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have made scholarships available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

3. *Invites* all States to make or continue to make generous offers of study and training facilities to the inhabitants of those Territories that have not yet attained self-government or independence and, wherever possible, to provide travel funds to prospective students;

4. *Urges* the administering Powers to take effective measures to ensure the widespread and continuous dissemination in the Territories under their administration of information relating to offers of study and training facilities made

[1] A/57/90 and Add.1.

by States and to provide all the necessary facilities to enable students to avail themselves of such offers;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to the present resolution.